THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Private insurance companies are under obligation to underwrite a certain percentage/number of policies for rural sector and social sector as per IRDA (Obligations of Insurers to Rural or social Sectors) Regulations, 2000 laid on the Table of the House on 22nd August, 2000.

RBI's advise against payment to Skybiz

3916. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RBI had advised banks against payment to Skybiz" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 22nd May, 2001 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of foreign money accepted by the company in 2000 and 2001;

(d) whether they have refunded the matured amount to the investors;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the company has violated provisions enshrined in FERA; and

(h) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of references received by the RBI seeking approval for effecting remittances in foreign currency towards purchase of web-sites, it has issued instructions prohibiting the authorised dealers in foreign exchange from allowing remittances against those schemes which lead to money circulation by enrolling new members. However, remittance can be allowed if the dealers are satisfied that the web-site is being sold unconditionally and the remitter would not use it for the purpose of adding further members to the chain.

(c) the amount of foreign exchange collected by M/s Skybiz International Ltd., U.S.A. is not known as the transaction had been conducted by the Company through Internet. The Indian company *i.e.* Skybiz India pvt. Ltd. has not accepted any payment if foreign exchange.

(d) to (f) As per investigations conducted so far, it has been found that the payment received by the Company is non-refundable and hence the question of refund of matured amount to investors does not arise.

(g) and (h) M/s Skybiz India Pvt. Ltd. started its operation in December, 2000. The question of violation of FERA, 1973 which stood repealed with effect from 31st May, 2000, therefore does not arise. In respect of M/s Skybiz International Ltd. U.S.A. the matter has been referred to the RBI by the Enforcement Directorate for details.

Restructure of Assembly Building

3917. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have calculated the total loss of properties of Manipur at the recent incidents which happened on 18th July, 2001 inc onnection with ceasefire;

(b) if so, the steps taken upto restructure the ruined Assembly Buildings, Government Secretariat and Ministers' Buildings; and

(c) by when, Assembly Building will be restructured ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Government of Manipur have informed that they have estimated the damage to buildings as well as furniture items belonging to the State Government on account of the incidents that occurred on 18-6-2001. The loss to immovable properties belonging to the Ministers/ MLAs has not been taken into account. Similarly, the loss of immovable properties within the assembly complex has also not been taken into account.

(b) and (c) The Government of Manipur has constituted a Task Force to over see the repairs/reconstruction of the damaged buildings including State Assembly buildings.